

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2176
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2000
RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY PLAN
RANEE NARAH

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in a national seminar on Research and Development in Indian Agriculture in the wake of Globalization the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission has suggested to provide a long-term research and technology plan for Indian agriculture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps Government propose to take to provide new technology to the agriculture;
- (d) the main suggestions made during the seminar by the agriculture experts; and
- (e) the steps being taken to implement these suggestions?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS

(SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. A national seminar on Research and Development thrusts in agriculture in the wake of globalization was held on 9th September, 1999 in Planning Commission in which Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission had suggested that a long-term research and technology plan for Indian agriculture be developed. This should include notifying names of authorities upto district level for documentation of country's flora and fauna in a community bio-diversity register, documentation of Indian basmati rice through DNA finger printing, studies on pesticide residue in crops, and setting up of private laboratories under a system of accreditation.

(c) Government have taken initiatives to strengthen the institutions under Indian Council for Agriculture Research (ICAR) and State Agriculture Universities (SAUs). Steps have also been taken to strengthen and expand the network of Krish Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and strengthen agricultural extension to provide new technology to agriculture.

(d) & (e) Various suggestions were made to protect the interest of Indian agriculture in ministerial conference on World Trade Organization (WTO) with respect to tariff levels, agriculture subsidies, market access, abolishing quotas etc. Stress was laid on crops requiring less water as a part of strategy for integrated watershed management and involvement of extension machinery, SAUs, KVKs and mass media etc. ICAR are required to formulate a strategy for sustainable agriculture and by educating communities and stepping up investment in R&D and human resource development for the agriculture sector.

The seminar also focused on problem areas such as natural resource management, water logged areas, mixed farming with pisciculture, stepping up of indigenous research in bio-technology and need for increased spread in micro- biology, tissue culture and to improve the organic contents in the soil by popularizing blue-green algae and azola etc. Issues concerning land use pattern and poverty amelioration measures were also discussed. Ninth Plan strategy has taken into account all these measures for implementation.